

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. The examiner has allowed claims 1-4 and 7-9 and has required cancellation of claims 5 and 6 as claims non-elected with traverse.

Applicant respectfully traverses this requirement for the following reasons. First, claims 5 and 6 are dependent claims and depend from allowed claim 1, directly (claim 4) or indirectly (claim 5). Thus, since claim 1 is allowable, claims 5 and 6 should be allowable. Second, claims 5 and 6 define a product by virtue of the process for making that product and are proper product by process claims, thereby satisfying 35 U.S.C. § 112. Third, in order to provide added compatibility between the allowed process claim 1 and dependent product claims 5 and 6, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 6 to recite the invention in terms of structures that result from the method of claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that no additional search is required and no additional issues are raised by the present amendment. By allowing claims 5 and 6 to issue in the present case, the Examiner will avoid substantial duplication of examination, conservation of resources in the USPTO and reduced costs to Applicants. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider claims 5 and 6 allowable and pass the application to issue with claims 1-9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Preliminary Amendment
Application No. 09/996,579

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

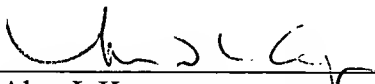
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426

Date: January 9, 2004